The State Government has informed that the technoeconomic viability of the project is under examination by the Caparo Group. They expect the production will be about 3 million tons per annum. However, the cost of the steel plant and its expected date of completion has yet to be firmed up by the promoters.

Relief to Gujars and Bakarwals

*250. SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Gujars and Bakarwals belonging to Scheduled Tribes suffered losses of life and livestock in Pir Punjal areas of Jammu and Kashmir in 1987, 1988 and 1989;

(b) if so, whether any case for relief is pending; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to expedite payment of relief to them?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c) The Gujars and Bakarwals have been included in the Tribal list in April, 1991. The question is about their losses of life and livestock in particular areas in Jammu and Kashmir in 1987, 1988 and 1989 before they were declared as Scheduled Tribe. As such, these informations are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Committee of Historians

*251. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain historians selected to serve on the Committee of Historians to write post-1947 history have, refused to serve on the said Committee; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and whether the Stalemate has been resolved?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Neither the Government nor the National Advisory Committee set up to prepare the curriculum on the history of post-independent India for school and college levels, has received any formal communication from any member of the Committee declining to serve on the same.

(b) Do not arise.

Tobacco Production

*252. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tobacco production in the country in the year 1990-91 was less than the target; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b) The total estimated production of tobacco was 5.58 lakh tonnes during 1990-91. No target was fixed for tobacco production in the country for the year 1990-91.

मध्य प्रदेश में जल विभाजक एवं कृषि प्रणाली संबंधी प्रबंध केन्द्र

*253. श्रीमती रत्न कुमारी : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार खाद्य तथा कृषि संगठन/संयुक्त राष्ट्र विकास कार्यक्रम की मदद से मध्य प्रदेश में जल विभाजक एवं कृषि प्रणाली संबंधी प्रबंध केन्द्र स्थापित करने का विचार रखती है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्योरा क्या है ?

कृषि मंत्री (श्री बलराम जाखड़) : (क) और (ख). "भारत में वर्षा सिंचित क्षेत्रों में जलागम आधारित स्थायी कृषि प्रणाली विकास" नामक एक छत्र परियोजना (अम्बेसा प्रोजेक्ट) संयुक्त राष्ट्र विकास कार्यक्रम की सहायता हेतु शुरू की गई है, जिसमें प्रबंध केन्द्र की स्थापना का घटक शामिल है ।